## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of all claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing a plurality of discrete events, each discrete event comprising a plurality of independent sub-events, the method comprising:

distributing each discrete event into one of a plurality of segments, each segment comprising a sequence of at least one discrete event to be processed;

maintaining a data table[[;]], the data table containing data associated with each of the plurality of segments;

initiating each of [[said]] the plurality of segments to execute concurrently on [[said]] at least one processor;

for each segment, processing each discrete event contained within [[said]] the segment sequentially;

for each discrete event, processing each independent sub-event of [[said]] the discrete event sequentially and then storing the results of [[said]] the processing;

monitoring each of [[said]] the segments to detect failures;

deactivating each segment for which a failure is detected;

retreiving initialization data, from the data table, corresponding to each failed segment;

re-initializing each failed segment with the initialization data corresponding to that failed segment; and

re-initiating each failed segment.


2. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of discrete events is a customer account and the processing each discrete event comprises determining billing information for the customer account.


3. (New) The method of claim 2, the method further comprising:

generating an invoice for the customer account after processing the customer account.

4. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of discrete events is a customer account and at least one independent sub-event of the discrete event comprises one or more customer calls.

5. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing the plurality of discrete events is performed using one of a symmetrical multiprocessing system, a massively parallel processing system, and a loosely coupled distributed processing system.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the distributing each discrete event comprises:
   determining a number of segments in the plurality of segments at least partially based on a number of processors included in the at least one processor.

7. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the distributing each discrete event comprises:
   determining a size of individual segments of the plurality of segments at least partially based on a number of customer accounts being processed.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the distributing each discrete event further comprises:
   associating parent and child customer accounts with the same segment, and wherein the size of the segment is partially determined thereby.

9. (New) An apparatus comprising:
   at least one memory circuit, contents of the memory circuit including data associated with corresponding ones of a plurality of segments, individual segments comprising a sequence of at least one discrete event to be processed, individual discrete events comprising a plurality of independent sub-events; and
   at least one processor configured to process the plurality of discrete events, the at least one processor being configured to concurrently process individual ones of the plurality of segments, wherein the at least one processor is configured to sequentially process individual discrete events contained within a segment, sequentially process individual independent sub-events of an individual discrete event, and store the results in the at least one memory circuit,

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wherein the at least one processor is configured to re-process individual, failed segments after deactivating and reinitializing the individual, failed segment with corresponding data retrieved from the at least one memory circuit.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of discrete events is a customer account and the at least one processor is configured to determine billing information for the customer account.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the at least one processor is configured to generate an invoice for the customer account after processing the customer account.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of discrete events is a customer account and at least one independent sub-event of the discrete event comprises one or more customer calls.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the at least one processor is included in one of a symmetrical multiprocessing system, a massively parallel processing system, and a loosely coupled distributed processing system.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the number of segments is at least partially based on a number of processors included in the at least one processor.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the size of individual segments is at least partially based on a number of customer accounts being processed.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein parent and child customer accounts are associated with the same segment and the size of the segment is partially based on the association.

17. (New) A method of processing a plurality of discrete events, individual discrete events of the plurality of discrete events comprising a plurality of independent sub-events, the method comprising:

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distributing individual discrete events of the plurality of discrete events into individual
segments of a plurality of segments, the individual segments comprising a
sequence of at least one discrete event to be processed;

maintaining a data table, the data table of the plurality of segments;

concurrently processing, on at least one processor, the individual segments based on the
data associated with the individual segments, wherein processing a segment of the
individual segments comprises:

sequentially processing individual discrete events associated with the segment;

sequentially processing individual independent sub-events of the discrete event;

storing the results of the sequential processing individual independent sub-events;

monitoring the processing of the individual segments to detect failures; and

when a failure is detected, deactivating processing of the segment corresponding
to the failure and reprocessing the segment corresponding to the failure
based on the contents of the data table.

18.  (New) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of
discrete events is a customer account and the processing each discrete event comprises
determining billing information for the customer account.

19.  (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the method further comprises:
generating an invoice for the customer account after processing the customer account.

20.  (New) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one discrete event of the plurality of
discrete events is a customer account and at least one independent sub-event of the discrete event
comprises one or more customer calls.